

General
Services
Administration
Information Security
Oversight
Office

124-0379/2

Washington, DC 20405

May 1, 1984

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

84-1964

Record

Mr. Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director for Administration
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Fitzwater:

Section 5.2(b)(6) of Executive Order 12356 requires the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) to consider and take action on complaints and suggestions from persons within or outside the Government with respect to the administration of the information security program of each agency monitored by ISOO. ISOO has received the enclosed correspondence from Donald A. Ritchie, Associate Historian, United States Senate.

Section 1.6(c) of Executive Order 12356 provides that only an agency head may reclassify information previously declassified and disclosed if it is determined in writing that (1) the information requires protection in the interest of national security; and (2) the information may reasonably be recovered. These reclassification actions must be reported promptly to the Director of ISOO. To date, ISOO has not been notified of the reclassification actions taken by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on the matter mentioned in Mr. Ritchie's letter.

I request that the CIA review the enclosed correspondence and brief ISOO on the reclassification actions and other concerns raised by Mr. Ritchie. The Senate publication mentioned in Mr. Ritchie's letter is "Executive Sessions of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Historical Series), Volume XIII, Part 1." A copy of the publication has been provided to ISOO but is not included in the enclosed correspondence.

Thank you for your continued cooperation. If you have any questions concerning the issues being addressed, please call me at 535-7251.

Sincerely,

STEVEN GARFINKEL
Director

Enclosures

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

HISTORICAL OFFICE

APR 24

23 April 1984

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Mr. Steven Garfinkle
Division of Information Security Oversight
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Mr. Garfinkle:

At the recent meeting of the Society for History in the Federal Government you surprised me with your comment that all agency decisions to reclassify material must be reported to your office. For the past year I have been working with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as it dealt with agency demands for reclassification, and neither I nor the committee staff involved had any idea that your office played a role in the issue.

I am enclosing a copy of the volume we just published, number 13 in our series of executive session transcripts of the committee. This project began in 1973, but not until volume 8 was published in 1978 (covering events in 1956) was any material deleted at the request of an executive branch agency--in that case the Central Intelligence Agency. Since then the requests for deletions have increased at a steady pace, and from a growing number of agencies.

We had anticipated speedy publication of volume 13, since many of the key transcripts had been previously declassified for individual researchers, and were already available for purchase through a commercial microfilm company (University Publications of America, Inc., in Frederick, Maryland). But two agencies, the Department of State and the CIA, requested that material from these transcripts be reclassified and not included in our published volume. Informed that the transcripts had been microfilmed and were beyond the committee's control, the Department of State withdrew its request, but the CIA insisted upon the deletions. Considerable correspondence and discussions followed, involving both issues of declassification and reclassification, and at last the volume was released on 16 April, with some of the reclassified material deleted. Of course, you can still buy the microfilm version, and it seems to me inevitable that some researcher will make the comparison and identify the deleted items.

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In light of this saga, I hope you can satisfy my curiosity: Did the CIA report these reclassified items to your office? And did these examples of reclassification meet the standards you observe?

Considering your comment on how few cases of reclassification have been reported so far, I suspect a negative answer to the first question. Considering the impossibility of recalling the microfilmed transcripts, I certainly hope the second question would also be answered in the negative.

Presumably we will face this problem again for future volumes in the series. Although you noted that your office does not serve as an appeals court, can the committee at least consult with you over the appropriateness of agency requests for reclassification?

With best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald A. Ritchie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donald" being more prominent.

Donald A. Ritchie

TOP-SECRET HEARINGS BY THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

We bring this catalogue to an end with our newest title, one which needs very little introduction. The partial listing of senators, witnesses, and topics which appears on this page should be enough to convince anybody that these previously *unpublished* hearings belong in every serious library.

Senators

J. William Fulbright (Chm.)
Theodore Green
Mike Mansfield
Eugene McCarthy
Wayne Morse
Stuart Symington
John F. Kennedy
Frank Church
Hubert Humphrey
John Sparkman
Russell Long

Witnesses

John Foster Dulles (Sec. of State)
Neil McElroy (Sec. of Defense)
Gen. Nathan Twining (Chm. of JCS)
Christian Herter (Sec. of State)
Gen. C.P. Cabell (Dep. Dir. of CIA)
Allen W. Dulles (Dir. of CIA)
Dean Rusk (Sec. of State)
Charles Bohlen (Spec. Asst. to Sec. of State)
Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer (Chm. of JCS)
George Ball (Under Sec. of State)
Douglas Dillon (Under Sec. of State)
John McCone (Dir. of CIA)
William Bundy (Asst. Sec. of State)
Cyrus Vance (Dep. Sec. of Defense)

Topics

- Matters concerning the State of U.S. Military Defenses (the Missile Gap). (1959)
- Cuban and Caribbean Affairs. (1960)
- Summit Conference of May 1960 and Incidents relating Thereto (the U-2). (1960)
- Briefing on the Cuban Situation (the Bay of Pigs). (1961)
- Vienna Talks: Kennedy and Khrushchev. (1961)
- Briefing on the Congo Situation. (1962)
- Briefing on the Forthcoming Geneva Disarmament Negotiations. (1962)
- Briefing by Dean Rusk on His Conversation with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. (1962)
- Briefing by Dean Rusk on the Situation in Laos. (1962)
- The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. (1963)
- Foreign Aid. (1963)
- Briefing by Dean Rusk on the Situation in Vietnam. (1963)
- Briefing by Dean Rusk on the Relationship between the United Arab Republic and the United States. (1965)
- The President's Report on Authorization of Additional Aid Funds for Southeast Asia. (1965)
- Briefing by Dean Rusk on His Recent Visits Abroad (the Ceasefire in Vietnam). (1966)

Brief excerpt from the hearing of February 16, 1959.

Senator John F. Kennedy: You don't accept the idea that what has been called a missile gap with the Soviet Union will give them a decisive advantage over us in the intercontinental ballistic missile?

General Lyman Lemnitzer: Well, my point, as I said a minute ago, let's not be concerned about one phase. Let's don't pick one weapons phase in isolation and call it a gap. For instance, we have IRBMs in Europe—look what we have to attack Russia with—that are better than ICBMs today. Look at the bombers sitting right on the border, and the Matador missiles and the Navy stuff. My gosh, we are surrounding them right close. The only thing they can hit us with is the ICBM in the missile field, and we can hit them with all kinds of missiles.

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